

# UPDATE Montana State Library

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

NO. 48 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 1996

## State Library Notes

### A Word from Our State

**Librarian:** Since my last report to you, I've covered approximately 2,600 miles. I attended all but one federation meeting. I missed the South Central Federation meeting in Billings because I was ill-prepared for the first significant winter storm. However, I went to Wolf Point, Anaconda, Havre, Libby, and Miles City. I know I haven't been everywhere, but I feel that I gained some sense of Montana's regional differences and similarities.

I found the differences to be mostly embedded in the obvious and beautiful variants in geography. I found the similarities in the challenges facing Montana librarians and trustees, regardless of their location. Simply put, your biggest challenge is to provide more service to more users with less money. Librarians and trustees from across the state also have similar ideas about future State Library services. In short, they want more technology support and training. The request for training includes not only technology, but trustee training, reference, children's services - in other words; all aspects of library issues. I agree with this consensus and plan to focus on these areas in the Long Range Plan. By the way, I will develop that plan in the upcoming months and ask for your comments in the spring of next year.

During my travels I heard good news that I'd like to share. Great Falls Public Library received a magnificent bequest. Anaconda's mill levy passed. Miles City, Polson, and others are

connected to the Internet. Wolf Point is setting up an automated system.

Also in the category of very good news is Congress passing an appropriation for 1997 LSCA pro-grams and authorizing a new library program, the Library Services and Technology Act [LSTA] for the next six years.

Speaking of legislation, January marks the beginning of our own legislative session. I am cautiously optimistic about the durability of the State Library's budget request. For MLA, Lois Fitzpatrick, chair of the Government Affairs Committee, is planning advocacy activities to support MLA's proposal for training and state-wide licensure of electronic databases.

On yet another front, based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Telecommunications, the Governor's office is drafting a bill that may enable many of Montana's libraries to receive access discounts to frame-relay services. If these proposals succeed, Montana libraries will be better positioned to serve their communities. However, none of these endeavors, full funding for MSL's budget, MLA's proposal, and establishing the universal service fund for libraries, will happen without your help.

One way that you can help is by attending Montana Library Day on January 13. Legislators can start the day with librarians, trustees, and friends at a breakfast at the Colonial Inn, talk with their own library friends during the day, and finish with a gala reception at the State Library. Please plan to spend the day in Helena supporting Montana's libraries.

The end of a year gives the

opportunity to reflect on the past and to anticipate the new year. 1996 brought many changes in my life - all of them, I'm happy to say, positive. I am fortunate to be in Montana and to have many new friends. I look forward to a new year working with you to improve library services in Montana. Thanks and Happy New Year.

**Notice to Public Libraries:** The Montana Public Library Annual Statistical Report forms were due October 11, 1996. If you haven't returned your forms yet, please do so immediately. Thank You! Diane Gunderson, Data Coordinator, 406-444-5349, [dmgunde@msl.mt.gov](mailto:dmgunde@msl.mt.gov).

**Darlene Staffeldt**, Director of Statewide Library Resources at the Montana State Library has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of WLN. Darlene's first meeting is November 22nd in Seattle. The next meeting will be on February 20th. If you have comments, suggestions, questions, and/or concerns you would like Darlene to take to the WLN Board please contact her at the Montana State Library. Phone 406-444-5381 or e-mail [dmstaff@wln.com](mailto:dmstaff@wln.com)

### Natural Heritage Program

**receives award:** The Montana Natural Heritage Program was given the "Best of the West" award at the annual Western regional Conference of The Nature Conservancy and heritage programs. This is the first time a heritage program has received such an award, which recognizes the Montana program's outstanding accomplishments in science, information management, innovative service to patrons, and

collaboration with private and public sector partners.

## Home Page Improvements:

The Montana State Library's Home Page has a new look and a table of contents.

The Statewide Library Resources section is making the publications it produces available as PDF files. The 1996 Montana Library Directory is available now and other publications are being added every few days. The *Update* is now available online as well.

The application for Montana Talking Book Library services can be downloaded [federal rules don't allow us accept the application via E-mail].

The Natural Resources Information System is also continuing to add to and improve their Internet pages. At the recommendation of the Legislative Council a clickable map was produced and is now online that provides information on Montana's legislative districts and the senators and representatives from each district. Gerry Daumiller of NRIS produced the map.

Keep checking back for new developments. The address is: <http://msl.mt.gov/>.

## Directory Changes:

**Ronda Perry** is the new Director at the Harlowton Public Library.

**Linette Ivanotich** is the new Director at the Boulder Community Library.

**Eric Halverson** is the new Director at the Big Horn County Library in Hardin.

**Dale Alger** is the new librarian at the Roundup High School.

**State Library Commissioner Peggy Guthrie's** fax number is now the same as her phone number: 406-466-2083.

**Plant Book Available:** A limited supply of the book: "Sensitive, Threatened and Endangered Vascular Plants of Montana," by Peter Lesica and J. Stephen Shelly [1991], is available at no cost directly from the Montana State Library. It is Occasional Publication No. 1 of the Montana Natural Heritage Program. This semi-technical publication provides text on rare plants

statewide and will be accompanied by the 1996 list of Montana rare plants for updated information. Contact Bonnie Heidel of the Natural Heritage Program at 406-444-0536.

## Commission News

**The Commission** met in Dillon on October 3. At this meeting, they discussed eligibility requirements for interlibrary loan reimbursement. Currently, schools operated by the same district are eligible for reimbursement for loans between their libraries. The Commission asked Karen Strege to collect more information on this matter for consideration at their December 4 meeting.

## Public Library News

### School/Public Library

**Cooperative Project:** The Parmly Billings Library was recently recognized in an article that appeared in "Computers in Libraries" [Vol. 16 Number 9, October 1996] for having just completed the first year of a cooperative automation project with the Billings school district. The project will add the holdings of all of the schools in the district - including three high schools and a Career Center that is an alternative high school - onto the library's minicomputer from a tape that was created at WLN. The project began with the Career Center and expanded to the high school libraries.

System administration is handled by Parmly Billings Library. The school district paid for the hardware and software licenses on the Ameritech Library Services integrated system. The school district also provides a courier service for interlibrary loan materials.

Each high school has twelve terminals and the Career Center has four. Parmly Billings Library has just over 300,000 holdings, each high school has about 20,000 and the Career Center has about 4,300.

Parmly Billings Library's computer is connected to the Internet and provides access to two of Montana's university libraries, an gopher, WLN's database, and several other databases. Students use the databases heavily.

The library continues to look for other cooperative projects involving schools in the area.

### Internet project receives

**recognition:** American Libraries, ALA's magazine, highlighted the Lincoln County Public Library in Libby in its November issue. The library now houses its own Internet node that provides service not only to the library but to 550 users throughout the county as well. This access has had a positive affect on the local economy. One local outfitter received 30-40 times the inquiries from the Internet than from advertising in a magazine and a displaced millworker is successfully selling his bronze sculptures via Internet.

Lincoln County Public Library also provides training for new users and an Internet camp for junior high students.

As a result of its Internet project, Brodart chose Libby as a Beta test site for Internet connectivity between the public and library materials. Holdings of the three Lincoln County Libraries in Libby, Troy, and Eureka can be viewed through the Internet and residents can check on the availability of a book and apply a hold or reserve.

With a \$34,000 grant from the LSCA program, the library will purchase a digital microfilm reader-printer. One hundred years of photos, maps, historical documents, and newspapers can then be digitized, indexed and preserved on a Web site.

Greta Chapman, Library Director, feels her community expressed its support for the direction the library services is taking by passing a mill-levy increase last June. This increase was passed by voters despite a 17% unemployment rate and strong tax opposition in the area.

## National News

**LSCA/LSTA news:** On September 30, 1996, President Clinton signed into law the final version of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) which replaces the expiring Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). This law establishes the Institute of Museum and Library Services that will administer the program. The law directs states to use LSTA funds to establish or enhance electronic linkages among libraries to share and receive resources. The funds are also intended to target library services to persons with disabilities and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children from families with incomes below the poverty lines.

At this time, Federal Program Officers are interpreting and clarifying LSTA. We do not yet know how this will affect Montana's libraries. Monitoring this transition and ensuring a robust LSTA program in Montana is a top priority for the State Library. We will alert you to developments. If you have questions about LSTA, please contact: Melody Ballard at 406-444-5350 or e-mail [mballard@msl.mt.gov](mailto:mballard@msl.mt.gov).

**Two new web sites from ALA publishing:** ALA Editions' *Open Stacks* presents samplers and news about product releases and works in progress. It links to proposal guidelines and other information for prospective authors and will include features that encourage interaction among readers, authors and editors. Address: <http://www.ala.org/alaeditions.html>.

The *Booklist* site features reviews from January 1996 to the present and a selection of articles from recent issues. An author-title-illustrator index, beginning with the March 1, 1996 issue, is also part of the site. Address: <http://www.ala.org/booklist.html>.

**New listserv on learning disabilities:** Roads To Learning, The Public Libraries' Learning Disabilities

Initiative of the ALA, has launched a listserv, PLLD-L. It is intended to be a forum for people who want to learn more about learning disabilities and their implications for public library collections and services, and those who are currently providing such services. Although designed primarily for library staff, members of the learning disability community are also invited to participate.

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to [listproc@ala.org](mailto:listproc@ala.org). Leave the subject line blank; if your system requires a subject line, type in "subscribe" but without the quotation marks. As the first and only line of text in the message type in: `subscribe PLLD-L <yourFirstName> <yourLastName>`. Send the message.

Contact: Roads To Learning, ASCLA at 800-545-2433x4027 or e-mail: [agorman@ala.org](mailto:agorman@ala.org).

**American Libraries' job ads now available online:** The classified advertising section of *American Libraries* is now available on the "ALA Job Line" at <http://www.ala.org>. New "Career Leads" ads will be posted online toward the end of every month, prior to publication in the magazine. Contact ALA 800-545-2433x4211 or e-mail: [careerleads@ala.org](mailto:careerleads@ala.org).

**Net Boosts School Learning:** The Center for Applied Special Technology, an independent research organization, has released a study that says elementary school students learn more when they have access to the Internet. Reuters reports that net-using groups got higher scores on tests measuring learning criteria, including topic insight and information handling accuracy. They also did better in presenting ideas and in understanding different points of view.

The study followed a student research project among 500 fourth and sixth grade students in six inner city school districts. Half used traditional teaching methods, including multi-media computer software, while the other half

also used the Internet.

## ALA Grants and Awards Available:

- © **1997 Carroll Preston Baber Grant** - up to \$7,500 is awarded for a proposal for innovative research that could lead to an improvement in library service to a particular group of people. Deadline January 15, 1997. Contact ALA, Library Research Center, 800-545-2433, e-mail: [larc@ala.org](mailto:larc@ala.org).
- © **Loleta D. Fyan Grant** - \$10,000 grant for a project that will develop and/or improve public library services that are innovative and responsive to the future. Deadline January 15, 1997. Contact ALA Library and Research Center, 800-545-2433x2153, e-mail: [larc@ala.org](mailto:larc@ala.org).
- © **John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Awards Competition** for 1997 sponsored by the H. W. Wilson Company and the Library Administration and Management Association [LAMA], a division of ALA. Deadline January 31, 1997. Contact: The H. W. Wilson Company at 312-280-5037.
- © **LAMA Cultural Diversity Grant** - supports creation and dissemination of resources that will assist library administrators and managers in developing a vision and commitment to diversity and in fostering and sustaining diversity throughout their institutions. Deadline December 31. Contact: Karen Muller, LAMA, ALA, 50 E. Huron Str., Chicago, IL 60611. E-mail: [kmuller@ala.org](mailto:kmuller@ala.org).
- © **World Book-ALA Goal Grant** - one grant of up to \$10,000 or two smaller grants totalling \$10,000. It is given to ALA units for the advancement of public, academic or school library service and librarianship through support of programs that implement the goals and priorities of ALA. Deadline March 1, 1997. Contact: ALA 800-545-2433x3247, e-mail [awards@ala.org](mailto:awards@ala.org).
- © **1997 Library Buildings Awards** -

Library building projects designed by architects practicing professionally in the United States and not completed before December 1, 1990, are eligible. Deadline December 13, 1996. Contact: Shonda M. Russell at ALA, 800-545-2433x5037.

- ⑦ **Dartmouth Medal** - presented to honor achievement in creating reference works of outstanding quality and significance. Deadline December 15. Contact: ALA 800-545-2433x4395
- ⑦ **Denali Press Award** - \$500 and plaque given to recognize achievement in creating reference works of outstanding quality and significance that provide information about ethnic and minority groups in the United States. Deadline December 15. Contact: ALA 800-545-2433x4395
- ⑦ **RUSA/Business Reference and Services Section [BRASS] Disclosure Student Travel Award** - \$1,000 enables a student with an interest in a career as a business reference librarian to attend the ALA Annual conference. Deadline December 15. Contact: ALA 800-545-2433x4395

- ⑦ **Facts on File Grant** - up to \$2,000 awarded to public, academic or school library for imaginative programming to make current affairs more meaningful to an adult audience. Deadline December 15. Contact: ALA 800-545-2433x4395
- ⑦ **Gale Research Award for Excellence in Business Librarianship [BRASS]** - \$1,000 and a citation given to an individual for distinguished service in the field of business librarianship. Deadline December 15. Contact: ALA 800-545-2433x4395
- ⑦ **Gale Research Award for Excellence in Reference and Adult Services** - \$1,000 and a citation presented to a library or library system for developing an imaginative and unique library resource to meet patrons' needs. Deadline December 15. Contact: ALA 800-545-2433x4395
- ⑦ **Genealogical Publishing Company/RUSA History Section Award** - \$1,000 and a citation recognizing and commending professional achievement in

historical, reference and research librarianship. Deadline December 15. Contact: ALA 800-545-2433x4395

- ⑦ **Margaret E. Monroe Library Adult Services Award** - given to a librarian who has made significant contributions to, and had an impact on, library adult services. Deadline December 15. Contact: ALA 800-545-2433x4395
- ⑦ **Isadore Gilbert Mudge-R.R. Bowker Award** - \$1,500 and a citation given to a person who has made a distinguished contribution to reference librarianship. Deadline December 15. Contact: ALA 800-545-2433x4395
- ⑦ **John Sessions Memorial Award** - a plaque recognizes the efforts of a library or library community to work with the labor community. Deadline December 15. Contact: ALA 800-545-2433x4395
- ⑦ **Louis Shores-Oryx Press Award** - \$1,000 given to an individual, team, or organization to recognize excellence in the reviewing of books and other materials for libraries. Deadline December 15. Contact: ALA 800-545-2433x4395

## Calendar

December 4 Commission meeting - Helena  
 December 25 Christmas Day-State Holiday  
 January 1 New Year's Day-State Holiday  
 January 20 Martin Luther King Day-State Holiday

January 24 Library Services Advisory Council  
 February 14-20 ALA Midwinter Meeting-Washington D.C.  
 February 17 President's Day-State Holiday  
 March 20-22 Public Library Association's 1997 Spring Symposium [formerly known as the Chicago Cluster Workshops]. Contact: PLA at 800-545-2433x5PLA

Update is a publication of the

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